

**Moberly Monitor Index**

May 22, 2008

Section: News

**Former Moberly physician Bill Jermyn dies**

By Janet Morales

Moberly, Mo. - House Bill 1790, which creates a "Time Critical Diagnosis System" for stroke and heart attack, was passed May 16. The governor's office says Missouri is the first state in the nation to legislatively create a STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) and a stroke statewide system of care.

"This life-saving legislation provides the framework to create a new designation of stroke and heart attack centers of Missouri," said Gov. Matt Blunt. "These centers will focus on giving patients the right care in the right place in the right amount of time."

The plan got its start with Dr. Bill Jermyn who was one of its strongest proponents.

According to an article of the Missouri Emergency Medical Service Association Jermyn said of the program, "We needed a system that could oversee the process for stroke, STEMI and trauma together."

Dr. Jermyn died Thursday, May 15, one day before the passage of the bill he had worked three years to see become reality.

Dr. Jermyn had a 33-year career in emergency medical services. He served as director of the emergency department at Moberly Regional Medical Center before receiving his state appointment three years ago. .

In 2005, as part of a commitment to improve emergency services in the state, Dr. Jermyn was named as the state's first Director of Emergency Medical Services, a post through the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Part of the new position, according to the Missouri Foundation for Health, was to take a "fragmented system" of 214 ground ambulance services and 29 trauma centers and unify them to provide a stronger system of emergency medical care for the residents of Missouri.

"Dr. Bill Jermyn had a vision for making Missouri a leader in providing a seamless system for emergency medical services, from the first call for help through every aspect of emergency care," said Jane Drummond, director of DHSS. "His knowledge, dedication and passion for improving the health and safety of Missourians was unsurpassed. He will be missed greatly by his coworkers at the Department of Health and Senior Services as well

as the many people from across the nation who have called us to express their respect for Dr. Jermyn.”

John William “Bill” Jermyn III, D.O. was born February 14, 1951 in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of John William Jermyn, Jr. and Patricia Reese Jermyn.

Dr. Jermyn is survived by his mother; sister and brother-in-law Deborah and R. Steven Paulson, M.D., Dallas, TX; and nephews Brandon Paulson, San Francisco, Calif.; Andrew Paulson, Boston, Mass.; and Kevin Paulson, Dallas, TX. He is survived also by his fiancée Melinda Ligon, St. Louis, to whom he was to be married July 19.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., June 10, at the First Assembly of God Church, 1900 Route C, Jefferson City. Memorials may be sent to the Humane Society or a charity of the donor’s choice.

Those wishing to send cards or notes to Dr. Jermyn’s mother may send them to Patricia Jermyn, 3424 Chaffin Drive, Richland Hills, TX 76118

Arrangement are under the direction of Houser-Millard Funeral Directors.